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Human rights questions: human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms

Letter dated 28 October 2005 from the Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I am writing with regard to your report to the General Assembly entitled "Human rights and unilateral coercive measures" (A/60/305). I would like to refer particularly to paragraphs 1 to 5 of the section of the report containing information received from the Government of Azerbaijan.

It is well known that the conflict is between Azerbaijan and Nagorno Karabakh, and the ensuing consequences are a result of Azerbaijan's aggression against the people of Nagorno Karabakh in response to their peaceful and just quest for self-determination, realized in accordance with international law and the existing Soviet legislation of the time. And it is the authorities of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic, democratically elected by its own people, that exercise full control over the Republic and the surrounding territories that became a buffer zone as a result of the full-scale war unleashed by Azerbaijan.

It is not the first time that in its futile efforts to mislead the international community Azerbaijan disseminates false information. In paragraph 1 of the report Azerbaijan continues its claim of "about 1 million refugees". This is despite the fact that the exact figures, far less of the Azerbaijani claims, have been regularly and clearly given by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in its reports.

Moreover, this time Azerbaijan has gone to the extent of obfuscating obvious geographic realities by stating, in paragraph 2 of its report, that the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic ... is linked to the rest of the country only by air. In fact, Nakhichevan, as an exclave bordering Armenia, Iran and Turkey, has an operational road connection with Azerbaijan proper through Iran.

An attempt is being made by Azerbaijan to present the consequences of its aggression against the people of Nagorno Karabakh as "unilateral coercive

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measures". The irony is that it is Azerbaijan that has imposed a blockade on Nagorno Karabakh and has exercised unilateral coercive measures against Armenia for almost two decades now. Already in 1988, following the peaceful movement in Nagorno Karabakh for self-determination, Azerbaijan closed the railroad with Armenia, hindering delivery of humanitarian assistance after the devastating earthquake in the same year.

Unfortunately, despite the continuing efforts by Armenia and Nagorno Karabakh to promote the idea of reopening all regional communication lines as a confidence-building measure, without any preconditions and even without benefits to Armenia, Azerbaijan continues to reject any such proposal.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter circulated as a document of the sixtieth session of the General Assembly under agenda item 71 (b).

(*Signed*) Armen **Martirosyan**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative